

Capsule Summary
SM-651
Buzzy Ridgell's Store
Scotland
Private

c. 1875-1900

Brothers Nathan and Max Shuman, Jewish immigrants from Germany, came to the United States in the late-nineteenth century determined to start a mercantile business. While Max built a store in Ridge, Nathan's desire came to fruition in 1897 when he purchased a two acre parcel on the west side of Route 5 near present day Scotland, Maryland and subsequently built a one-and-a-half story, frame building he used as a general store.¹ For over 100 years, the one-and-a-half story, frame, gable-front building has occupied a convenient bend in the road to Point Lookout. As a general merchandise store, post office, and informal meeting place for Scotland's rural residents, the building still symbolizes the important commercial role general stores have played to rural areas.

The Shuman family owned the property and store until 1945 when they sold it to James H. Raley. In 1954, the Raley's transferred the store to their son-in-law Clarence H. Ridgell and their daughter Jean M. (Raley) Ridgell. The Ridgells lived at and operated the store, oversaw several attached apartments, and also opened a camper park. According to Lila (Ridgell) Hofmeister, the store contained everything from skinned muskrats to kerosene and ice which could be bought or bartered for by customers.² In 1983 a tragic fire engulfed much of the rear part of the building, but the original front section escaped relatively unscathed. Several additions made to the rear and side of the store have obscured its original appearance, but the store remains open under the proprietorship of Clarence H. "Buzzy" Ridgell.

¹ Clarence D. Bradburn, Some Important People and Places in St. Mary's County (N.p.: N.p., 1977), 99-105. Oral tradition has suggested that the store was actually one of the buildings moved from Point Lookout Prison Camp after the Civil War.

² Telephone conversation with Lila Hofmeister, August, 1998.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Buzzy Ridgell's Store

2. Location

street & number 12665 Pt. Lookout Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Scotland ___x vicinity of congressional district 1

state Md county St. Mary's TM-73, G-1, P-68

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ___ district | ___ public | ___x occupied | ___ agriculture |
| <u>x</u> building(s) | <u>x</u> private | ___ unoccupied | <u>x</u> commercial |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational |
| ___ site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | ___ entertainment |
| ___ object | ___ in process | <u>x</u> yes: restricted | ___ government |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial |
| | <u>x</u> not applicable | ___ no | ___ military |
| | | | ___ other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Clarence H. Ridgell

street & number 12665 Pt. Lookout Rd. telephone no.: 301-872-5430

city, town Scotland state and zip code Md 20687

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 414

street & number folio 178

city, town Scotland state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-651

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------|------------------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move | possibly from Pt. Lookout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | | Prison in 1865-66. |
| | | | | | more likely built late-1890s |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Buzzy Ridgell's Store is located approximately 1.2 miles south of the intersection of Maryland Routes 235 and 5 on the southwest side of Maryland Route 5 near Scotland, Maryland. Oriented on a north/south axis, the store is conveniently situated at a turn in the road making the building readily visible to southbound automobile traffic. The relatively flat parcel's surrounding environment is characterized by a small parking lot on its north side as well as cultivated fields, a camper park, and woodlands. The building remains a country store, but a majority of the building is presently used for a number of apartments.

The Buzzy Ridgell's Store is a one-and-a-half story, three bay, gable-front, frame building. Constructed in the mid to late-nineteenth century, the building has been extensively altered thus obscuring its original form. While the foundation is obscured by exterior sheathing, the hewn frame walls are sheathed with vinyl siding. The cornice is enclosed and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The original building consisted of the front or north section of the building. Additions to accomodate a number of apartments as well as a fire precipitated substantive architectural changes. A majority of these modifications, fortunately, have occurred to the rear of the building, leaving the historic storefront relatively intact. The focus of this description, therefore, will be on this front elevation.

The primary elevation has a gable front entry to the store as well as to the half story apartments. These two doors are accompanied by a one-over-one, double-hung sash window. All of these openings are shaded by a porch that exhibits four turned posts. The half story is pierced by two, one-over-one windows.

The interior consists of an open space that extends approximately 30 feet to the south. This space is divided into several aisles which run north to south for the selling of goods. Several large posts permit the space to run relatively uninterrupted. The counter is located on the south end of the building and a brick stove flue climbs the south wall. The general store contains a wide range of items from bait and tackle to bug spray and food.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-651

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Brothers Nathan and Max Shuman, Jewish immigrants from Germany, came to the United States in the late-nineteenth century determined to start a mercantile business. While Max built a store in Ridge, Nathan's desire came to fruition in 1897 when he purchased a two acre parcel on the west side of Route 5 near present day Scotland, Maryland and subsequently built a one-and-a-half story, frame building he used as a general store.¹ For over 100 years, the one-and-a-half story, frame, gable-front building has occupied a convenient bend in the road to Point Lookout. As a general merchandise store, post office, and informal meeting place for Scotland's rural residents, the building still symbolizes the important commercial role general stores have played to rural areas.

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² Telephone conversation with Lila Hofmeister, August, 1998.

Survey No. SM-651

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

[illegible]

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------|----|
| city or town | Leonardtown | state | Md |
|--------------|-------------|-------|----|

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-651, Buzzy Ridgell's Store
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 414, Folio 178

Grantee: Clarence H. Ridgell

Grantor: Clarence H. and Jean M. Ridgell

Date: October 13, 1987

Notes: The property is listed as containing 2 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 53, Folio 529

Grantee: Clarence H. and Jean M. Ridgell

Grantor: James H. and Anna M. Raley

Date: December 4, 1954

Notes: This deed notes that the Raley's receive the property from two separate conveyances. The deed does not describe what interest in the property each party was conveying.

Conveyance #1

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 366

Grantee: James H. and Anna M. Raley

Grantor: Michael and Anna Shuman

Date: September 10, 1945

Conveyance #2

Reference: Liber CBG 18, Folio 498

Grantee: James H. Raley

Grantor: William A. Morgan

Date: August 16, 1946

Reference: Liber JMM 4, Folio 157

Grantee: Michael and Anna Shuman

Grantor: Nathan Shuman

Date: June 18, 1926

Notes: This deed notes that the property contains 2 acres and was "part of the original tract of land once owned by William C. Bayne.

Reference: Liber JJG 4, Folio 244

Grantee: Nathan Shuman

Grantor: Theodore L. West

Date: March 4, 1897

Notes: While the conveyance does not contain a bean clause, the previous deed mentions that the store's two acre parcel was formerly owned by William C. Bayne.

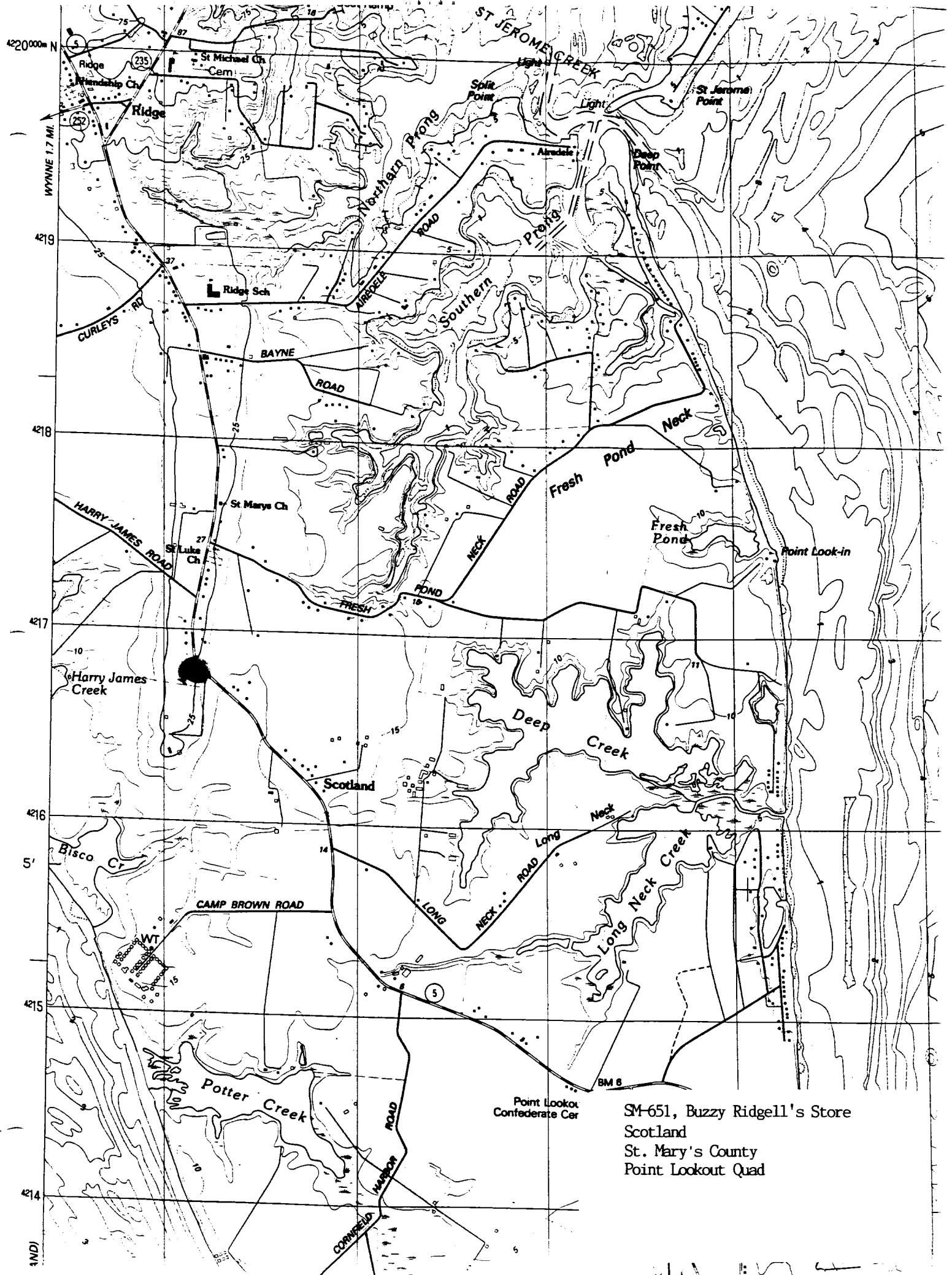
SM-651, Buzzy Ridgell's Store
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Geographic Organization: | Western Shore |
| Chronological/Developmental Period: | Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 |
| Historic Period Theme: | Architecture Economic |

Resource Type

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Category: | Building |
| Historic Environment: | Rural |
| Historic Function and Use: | General Store |
| Known Design Source: | None |



SM-651, Buzzy Ridgell's Store
Scotland
St. Mary's County
Point Lookout Quad





